

As a Flight Attendant I am very concerned about relaxing the regs on cell phone use aboard the aircraft during the flight.

1. No one is sure about how and if cell phone use interferes with the aircraft navigation systems. Will it take a tragedy to find out? Let us err on the side of caution. There is enough to contend with in keeping our aircraft safe from point A to B. Do not ADD to the possible dangers.

2. From an emergency point of view cell phone usage will create a nightmare of chaos and inattention during critical instructions, commands and, if necessary, evacuation. It will be impossible to manage and control any situation if passengers are either on their phones or dialing to "report" what they think is happening.

3. For a hijacking/security scenario, critical information can be communicated to and from terrorists on the ground. This hugely compromises the safety of all - passengers, crew, air marshalls, ground security, etc. Do not expose us to this possibility.

4. The aircraft cabin is a cramped, noisy, claustrophobic, overpopulated space. There has to be a lot of cooperation and consideration as each passenger attempts to eke out a small bit of personal space. This includes not being forced to listen to someone else's conversation. Cell phone usage in this constrictive area would exacerbate tensions in an already stressful environment. Not many would be able to tolerate having to listen to an inconsiderate stranger's loud (everyone speaks loudly on cell phones because the reception is so poor), long and drawn out emotional drama or whatever the case may be. I assure you tempers will flare and there will be incidents. This will just create more problems that everyone (passengers and crew) will have to deal with. Why open Pandora's box? We can all survive a few hours without our cell phones.